

Claims:

1. Rearview mirror apparatus for mounting to an inside portion of a front windshield of a vehicle, comprising:

(a) an elongated mirror housing shaped to extend along a longitudinal axis substantially across a top portion of the windshield, the housing having a elongated front opening;

(b) a planar mirror mounted within the opening of the housing, wherein the mirror is disposed in a plane extending at an angle to the longitudinal axis of the housing; and

(c) a pair of spaced mounts extending from a back portion of the housing for mounting the housing to the windshield.

2. The apparatus defined in claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a back wall extending in a first plane parallel to the longitudinal axis, an integral top portion, and an integral bottom portion, wherein the top portion and the bottom portion have front edges which together define a front surface extending in a second plane offset at an angle to the first plane, wherein the front surface defines an opening shaped for receiving the mirror.

3. The apparatus defined in claim 2, wherein the front opening and the planar mirror are generally rectangular in shape.

4. The apparatus defined in claim 2, wherein the front surface has a lip portion shaped for retaining the mirror within the housing.

5. The apparatus defined in claim 1, wherein the housing is shaped generally in the form of a wedge having a thin edge and a thick edge, wherein the thin edge of the wedge is positioned adjacent to the driver's side of the vehicle.

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6. Rearview mirror apparatus for mounting to an inside portion of a front windshield of a vehicle, comprising:

- (a) an elongated mirror housing extending along a longitudinal axis substantially across a top portion of the windshield of the vehicle;
- (b) a planar mirror mounted within the housing; and
- (c) a pair of spaced mounts extending from a back portion of the housing for mounting the housing to the windshield;
- (d) wherein each of the mounts comprises an adjustable mount having a telescopic main body extending generally perpendicularly to the housing and the windshield.

7. The apparatus defined in claim 6, wherein the telescopic main body comprises a cylinder having a closed end adjacent to the housing and an open end adjacent to the windshield, a shaft shaped to slidingly fit within the cylinder through the open end, and securing means for adjustably securing the shaft in a set position relative to the cylinder.

8. The apparatus defined in claim 7, wherein each of the adjustable mounts also comprises a first joint mechanism extending from the closed end of the cylinder for pivotally connecting the cylinder to the housing, wherein the first joint mechanism is operable to pivot the housing about a pivot axis parallel to and spaced from the longitudinal axis of the housing.

9. The apparatus defined in claim 8, wherein each of the adjustable mounts also comprises a second joint mechanism extending from the shaft for rotatably connecting the shaft to the windshield.

10. An adjustable mount for mounting a housing for a rearview mirror to an inside portion of a windshield of a vehicle, comprising:

(a) a telescopic main body extending generally perpendicularly to the housing and the windshield, the telescopic main body comprising a cylinder having a closed end adjacent to the housing and an open end adjacent to the windshield, a shaft shaped to slidably fit within the cylinder through the open end, and securing means for adjustably securing the shaft in a set position relative to the cylinder;

(b) first joint mechanism extending from the closed end of the cylinder for pivotally connecting the cylinder to the housing; and

(c) a second joint mechanism extending from the shaft for rotatably connecting the shaft to the windshield.

11. The apparatus defined in claim 10, wherein the securing means comprises a keyed surface on the shaft, and a set screw within a threaded aperture in the side of the cylinder, the set screw being releasably tightenable against the shaft.

12. The apparatus defined in claim 10, wherein the first joint mechanism comprises an annular flange extending from the first end of the cylinder, and a U-shaped bracket attached to the mirror housing, the U-shaped bracket having spaced side portions extending perpendicularly to the housing, the side portions being spaced apart to slidably receive the annular flange.

13. The apparatus defined in claim 12, wherein the annular flange has a central aperture, and the side portions of the U-shaped bracket have an aperture which registers with the aperture in the annular flange.

14. The apparatus defined in claim 13, wherein the first joint mechanism further comprises a fastener for releasably fastening the annular flange to the U-shaped bracket, wherein the fastener is shaped to fit through

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the apertures in the side portions of the U-shaped bracket and the aperture in the annular flange.

15. The apparatus as defined in claim 14, wherein the annular flange has flat opposed side surfaces, and wherein the side surfaces are serrated.

16. The apparatus defined in claim 15, wherein the second joint mechanism comprises a ball extending from the end of the shaft, and a socket portion attachable to the windshield, wherein the ball is shaped to fit within an opening in the socket portion.

17. The apparatus defined in claim 16, wherein the socket portion comprises a socket attached to a base, wherein the base includes a flat base plate.

18. The apparatus defined in claim 17, wherein the socket is mounted to the base at a preselected eccentric angle relative to the flat base plate.

19. The apparatus defined in claim 18, wherein each of the mounts further comprises a pocket portion having a flat back surface for adhesively coupling the mounts to the windshield, and a front pocket shaped for slidably receiving the base plate.

20. The apparatus defined in claim 6, further comprising securing means for releasably securing the adjustable mounts in a set position, wherein the securing means comprises a set screw shaped to fit into a threaded aperture.